

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 (ISO) R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCUSARPAC

S E C R E T STATE 235701

EXDIS

FOL SECSTATE 235701 SENT ACTION PHNOM PENH CINCPAC INFO BANGKOK
SAIGON COMUSSAG CNO NOV 30, 1973 FROM SECSTATE REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 235701

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, CB, VS
SUBJECT: SHIPPING AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ON THE MEKONG

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 12193; B. SECDEF 261846Z OCT 73;
C. STATE 224563; D. JCS 051545Z NOV 73; STATE 159175;
F. CINCPAC 140324Z NOV-73; G. SECDEF 191526Z NOV 73

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. THIS MESSAGE REPLIES TO REF A.
2. FUNDING. REVIEW OF MAP REQUIREMENTS, THE LEGISLATIVE SITUATION, AND PROBABLE RESOURCES INDICATES THAT IT IS UN-
LIKELY THAT THE FY74 PROGRAM LEVEL FOR CAMBODIA WILL EXCEED
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325 MILLION DOLLARS, INCLUDING TRAINING AND PREMIUM TRANS-

PORTATION. MEANWHILE, CRA FUNDING IS EXHAUSTED FOR THE SECOND QUARTER. CURRENT OUTLOOK IS GOOD, HOWEVER, FOR EARLY PASSAGE OF FAA AUTHORIZING REPEAT AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION WITH DRAW-DOWN AUTHORITY WHICH COULD BE USED TO MEET MUCH OF CAMBODIA'S REQUIREMENTS. ALTHOUGH DRAW-DOWN WILL RELIEVE IMMEDIATE FUNDING PROBLEM, IT WILL NOT AFFECT LONGER RANGE PROBLEMS OF TOTAL FUNDING (I.E., VALUE OF ITEMS, SUPPLIES UNDER DRAW-DOWN MUST BE CHARGED TO CAMBODIA TOTAL PROGRAM, CURRENTLY PROJECTED AT NOT MORE THAN 325 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FY 74). THUS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, PLANNING AND PROGRAM EXECUTION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN RECOGNITION OF THESE FUNDING CONSTRAINTS.

3. ADDITIONAL MNK TASK FORCE. A. THE FORCE STRUCTURE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL, INCLUDING THE CAPACITY OF THE MNK TO ABSORB AN INCREASE IN INVENTORY OF THIS MAGNITUDE, WILL BE ADDRESSED AS PART OF THE GENERAL REVIEW OF FORCE STRUCTURE NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF B. B. WITH MINOR EXCEPTIONS THESE CRAFT ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN US INVENTORIES. C. OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE THE VIETNAMESE NAVY (VNN) AND NEW CONSTRUCTION. SHOULD THE VNN PROVIDE THE CRAFT, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO REPLACE THEM ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS, AN ACTION ITSELF NECESSITATING NEW CONSTRUCTION. NEW CONSTRUCTION OF THE REQUESTED 44 CRAFT WOULD COST AT LEAST 10.3 MILLION DOLLARS, VICE THE 8.55 MILLION DOLLARS ESTIMATED BY AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH, AND WOULD ENTAIL APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR BETWEEN CONTRACT AWARD AND CRAFT DELIVERY.

4. RICE BUILDUP. REF C SUMMARIZES DECISIONS MADE AND ACTION BEING TAKEN IN WASHINGTON ON THIS QUESTION.

5. AMMUNITION BUILDUP. IN VIEW OF THE FUNDING SITUATION ALREADY OUTLINED IN PARA 2, AND BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR SEEING SO MUCH AMMUNITION CONCENTRATED IN PHNOM PENH AT ONE TIME, WE PREFER TO ADHERE TO OUR DECISION (REF D), OF BUILDING AMMUNITION STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TO 30 DAYS SUPPLY. THEREFORE, STORAGE CAPACITY IN PHNOM PENH SHOULD NOT BE EXPANDED BEYOND THIS LEVEL. IN THIS REGARD ANY STORAGE CAPACITY EXPANSION CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED AT THE EXPENSE OF MAP FUNDS. PRIMARY EMPHASIS FOR AMMUNITION RESUPPLY SHOULD BE ON USE OF THE MEKONG LOC, WITH US C-130 AIRLIFT AVAILABLE TO SUPPLEMENT AS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE

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AND MAINTAIN A STOCKAGE LEVEL OF 30 DAYS OF SUPPLY.

6. ADDITIONAL BULLDOZERS. HERE WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A WIDELY PUBLICIZED GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS, DATED OCT. 10, 1973, WHICH ALLEGES THAT US HAS ALREADY PROVIDED REDUNDANT QUANTITIES OF EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT TO CAMBODIA DUE TO DUPLICATIVE REQUISITIONING THROUGH AID AND MAP CHANNELS. ADDITIONALLY, IF THESE ITEMS ARE PROVIDED ON A LOAN BASIS,

IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CHARGE CAMBODIA MAP A LOAN FEE AND TO CHARGE CAMBODIA MAP THE FULL VALUE OF THE ITEM IF IT IS LOST OR DESTROYED. FOR THESE REASONS, AND IN VIEW OF THE DECISION IN PARA 5 ABOVE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE LOAN OF NINE BULLDOZERS TO CAMBODIA MAP IS INDICATED AT THIS TIME-

7. DRAWING AMMUNITION FROM SVN. THE POLICY OUTLINED IN REF E REMAINS OPERATIVE. WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF TOTAL SUPPLY OF FANK NEEDS BY WITHDRAWAL FROM RVNAF STOCKS, PARTICULARLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPOT IN THE VICINITY OF SAIGON AS OUTLINED IN PARA

4C OF REF F. THE TRANSFER AUTHORIZED BY REF G WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL, ONE-TIME ACTION AS CONTEMPLATED BY REF E. AMMUNITION FOR FANK WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED VIA THAILAND, AND REQUESTS FOR TRANSFERS FROM RVNAF STOCKS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY OSD ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

8. EXPEDITED ARRIVAL OF ASSISTANT NAVAL ATT ACHE. WE AGREE WITH DIA THAT THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO PROVIDE A TDY ASSISTANT FOR ABOUT 90 DAYS, SO AS TO AVOID CURTAILING THE TRAINING OF ALUSNA DESIGNATE, NOW STUDYING FRENCH AND DUE ON STATION ABOUT 24 FEBRUARY 1974. DOD HAS MADE THIS REQUES TO THE NAVY THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS. RUSH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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